

Serial No. 10/623,774
Amendment dated January 8, 2008
Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2007

Docket No. LT-0040

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13, 18, and 19 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 13, and 18 have been amended and claims 7, 12, and 14-17 have been canceled. Applicants submit that entry of this paper is proper as the features added by amendment to the independent claims derive from one or more dependent claims, the subject matter of which has already been considered by the Examiner.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-13 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a Hashimoto-Kim combination. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the plurality of titles on the optical disc “correspond to a respective number of video programs stored separately on said optical disc,” and that step b) includes “determining a title that corresponds to a video program stored on said disc having a longest playback time, and selecting and forcibly reproducing the video program having the title with the longest playback time, said determining and selecting automatically performed in response to a user command to reproduce information from said optical disc.” These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references.

The Hashimoto publication fails to teach or suggest storing respective playback times of titles on an optical disc. Accordingly, Hashimoto does not teach or suggest the features added by amendment to claim 1.

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Moreover, in the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Hashimoto discloses selecting and reproducing a title with a longest playback time. However, in Paragraph [106], Hashimoto makes clear that a plurality of titles that correspond to video programs stored separately on a disc are not considered to determine the title having the longest playback time, as recited in claim 1. Rather, Hashimoto searches the data lengths of only one video program (story portion), a control data section, and menu data section on a DVD. The data length having the longest data length is then assumed to be the story portion to be reproduced.

Thus, Hashimoto does not consider a plurality of titles of video programs separately stored on the disc to locate the title of the video program having the longest playback time. Rather, Hashimoto merely determines a DVD having a single video program, control data, and menu data and concludes that the section having the longest data length must be the video program (story) portion. Moreover, Hashimoto does not teach or suggest “automatically” performing the determining and selecting of claim 1 “in response to a user command to reproduce information from said optical disc.”

The Kim patent also fails to teach or suggest these features. The Kim patent discloses detecting reproduction time code data from a DVD and then computing a playback time of a stored video program based on this time code data. Kim does not teach or suggest “determining a title that corresponds to a video program stored on said disc having a longest playback time, and selecting and forcibly reproducing the video program having the title with the longest

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playback time, said determining and selecting automatically performed in response to a user command to reproduce information from said optical disc.”

Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over a Hashimoto-Kim combination.

Claim 8 recites a method for reproducing information stored on an optical disc having a plurality of titles that correspond to a respective number of video programs stored separately on said optical disc. This method includes “determining a title that corresponds to a video program stored on said disc having a longest playback time, and selecting and forcibly reproducing the video program having the title with the longest playback time, said determining and selecting automatically performed in response to the user’s request,” where in this case the user’s request is “to perform an all disc successive play operation with respect to a plurality of discs loaded in an optical disc apparatus.”

These features are not taught or suggested by the Hashimoto publication and the Kim patent, whether taken alone or in combination. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 8 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claim 18 recites “selecting and forcibly reproducing a video program having a title with a longest playback time, the video program automatically selected and forcibly reproduced in response to a user command setting the all disc repeat play mode of the multi-disc changer.” These features are not taught or suggested by the Hashimoto publication and the Kim patent,

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whether taken alone or in combination. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 18 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Finally, in Applicants' previous reply, the claims were distinguished on grounds that the Kim disc stores time code information, from which a playback time is computed. Applicants submit that this difference no longer applies as, for example, claim 1 has been amended to recite detecting "information indicative of respective playback times of the video programs corresponding to said titles stored on said optical disc, wherein the information indicative of the playback times for each of the video programs of said titles are included with or within management information stored in a predetermined area of the disc." Similar amendments have been made to claims 8 and 18.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and

please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: January 8, 2008

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